



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Accountant Sentenced For Embezzling Money From County Foster Homes

An accountant was sentenced today to three years in state prison for embezzling money from two county foster homes over a two-year period, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Gary Batchelor, 64, of Long Beach, also was ordered to pay \$356,435 in restitution, including \$40,329 to the state Franchise Tax Board and \$193,865 to You Are the Difference Foundation.

In September, Batchelor pleaded guilty to two felony counts of misappropriation of public funds and one felony count of filing a false tax return in two separate cases.

Batchelor and co-defendant Steven Smith were charged in case BA435627 with embezzling money from Moore's Cottage between June 2011 and October 2013. At the time, Batchelor was a board member and chief financial officer at Moore's Cottage and Smith was executive director.

Batchelor was indicted by a Grand Jury last April for stealing from the You Are the Difference Foundation homes in case BA443706.

The group homes are located in Compton, Los Angeles, Altadena and Pomona and serve boys ages 13 to 18.

Deputy District Attorney Dana Aratani with the Public Integrity Division prosecuted both cases.

Smith, 56, pleaded guilty to one felony count each of embezzlement and failure to file a tax return in September. He was sentenced to 30 days in county jail, placed on formal probation for five years and ordered to pay \$30,171 in restitution.

The cases were investigated by the Long Beach Police Department, the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller and the California Franchise Tax Board.

## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.